

Message Text

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S E C R E T ATHENS 2921

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR GR US

SUBJ: U.S.-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS: COMMENTS ON THIRD PLENARY
OF SECOND ROUND

REF A. ATHENS 2920 B. STATE 085233 C. ATHENS 2826 D. ATHENS 2781

ROME FOR DEPASSTSECDEF BERGOLD

1. THE THIRD PLENARY SESSION OF ROUND II IN THE US-GREEK
BASE NEGOTIATIONS THIS MORNING ENABLED US TO MAKE CLEAR
FOR THE RECORD THAT THE US WILL NOT RPT NOT PERMIT OUR
BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS
MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF GUARANTIES,
WHICH THE GREEKS MUST SOON BEGIN TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEIR
NATO ALLIES. WE WERE AT THE SAME TIME ABLE TO STATE
EMPHATICALLY FOR THE RECORD THAT US POLICY IS TO ENCOURAGE
GREECE TO RETURN TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE MILITARY

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STRUCTURE OF NATO AND WE WERE ABLE TO POINT OUT THE

ESSENTIAL INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN GREECE'S ADHERENCE TO THE ALLIANCE, BY WHICH GREECE RECEIVES THE BENEFITS OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY, AND GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO'S MILITARY STRUCTURE, A WITHDRAWAL WHICH DENIES OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY BENEFITS WHICH GREECE CLAIMS FOR ITSELF. LASTLY, OUR COMMENTS ON THE GREEK DRAFT OF AN UMBRELLA OR OMNIBUS AGREEMENT REITERATED OUR RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSED FORMAT, RESERVED OUR INTENTION TO PROVIDE CONSIDERED REACTIONS AT A LATER TIME, AND REMINDED THE GREEKS ONCE AGAIN THAT SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION OF US-GREEK BILATERAL ISSUES MUST PRECEDE DECISIONS ON THE FORM THAT AN AGREEMENT OR AGREEMENTS WILL ASSUME WHEN NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

2. IN OUR REMARKS ON US FACILITIES AT HELLENIKON, WE SOUGHT TO LINK AS FORMALLY AND AS EXPLICITLY AS POSSIBLE THE POSSIBLE TERMINATION OF HOMEPORTING WITH A CONTINUING US PRESENCE AT HELLENIKON. WE DECIDED TO DEFER A COMMITMENT ON HOMEPORTING AT LEAST UNTIL WE CAN ASCERTAIN WHETHER CALOGERAS IS WILLING AND ABLE TO CONCEDE IN THE FOURTH PLENARY ON APRIL 18 THAT THE GREEK SIDE NO LONGER INSISTS ON TERMINATION OR RELOCATION OF ALL US FACILITIES AT HELLENIKON. HE CAME VERY CLOSE TO CONCEDED THIS POINT TODAY. HOPEFULLY, BY FRIDAY HE WILL HAVE RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES HE LEFT UNFINISHED TODAY AND TO MAKE EXPLICIT THE GREATER FLEXIBILITY THAT WAS IMPLICIT THIS MORNING AND IN HIS PRIVATE DISCUSSION WITH STEARNS ON SATURDAY.

3. IT IS ALREADY APPARENT THAT THE SECOND ROUND WILL CONTINUE INTO OR THROUGH THE WEEK OF APRIL 21. THIS IS BY NO MEANS UNFAVORABLE TO OUR INTERESTS. THE GREEK SIDE STARTED WITH AN INFLEXIBLE POSITION ON BOTH HELLENIKON AND HOMEPORTING. PLENARY AND SUBGROUP DISCUSSIONS HAVE ENABLED US TO EDUCATE THE GREEK SIDE ON THE VALUE OF OUR BASES AND FACILITIES AND IN SO DOING TO INCREASE THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE GREEK POSITION. FURTHERMORE, IT IS THE GREEK SIDE WHICH WISHES TO BE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE CHANGES IN OUR EXISTING FACILITIES. DELAY OCCASIONED BY THE NEED FOR CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF THE ISSUES WORKS TO OUR ADVANTAGE BECAUSE
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THE GREEK SIDE OPERATES UNDER THE POLITICAL PRESSURE TO SHOW RESULTS. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW THERE IS NOTHING TO BE GAINED FROM PRESSING FOR QUICK DECISIONS WHICH WILL COST US MONEY AND MAY AT LEAST TEMPORARILY IMPAIR OUR OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD KEEP TALKING AND IN THE PROCESS CLARIFY TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT THE GREEK POSITION ON ALL OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS WHILE OBTAINING THE BEST POSSIBLE RETURN FROM THE CONCESSIONS

WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE.

4. AT THIS STAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, WE EXPECT THE SECOND
ROUND TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK. WE WILL BE
SENDING ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGES TOMORROW REQUESTING THAT
TRAVEL ORDERS OF MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION BE EXTENDED
THROUGH THAT TIME. KUBISCH

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